



## **Tribal Social Services Directors and Tribal Leaders in States With CMHS System of Care Initiatives**

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 4.1 million American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) living in the United States. Over half of that population lives off of Indian reservation land. There are AI/AN populations in every State of the union, and large communities in many urban centers across the country. The AI/AN population has some of the highest rates of mental health and other related problems, yet are typically severely underserved by county- and state-run service systems. In developing systems of care initiatives it is imperative to involve representatives of tribal governments (elected leaders), tribal social services directors, and other members of AI/AN communities, including families and youth. National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day on May 3 is an opportunity to reach out and involve these communities. The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) is providing contact information for elected tribal leaders from States that currently have CMHS systems of care initiatives, as well as contact information for tribal social service directors. We encourage counties and States to contact these people and ask for AI/AN perspectives in developing your social marketing plan for National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.

**For the current directories of Tribal Social Services Directors and Tribal Leaders in States with CMHS System of Care initiatives, please visit:**  
**[www.nicwa.org/resources/factsheets/index.asp](http://www.nicwa.org/resources/factsheets/index.asp).**

For information on Urban Indian Health program contacts and other urban Indian issues in your State, please visit [www.uihi.org](http://www.uihi.org), or [www.500nations.com](http://www.500nations.com) for information on other AI/AN organizations in your State that may not be listed there or in the attached lists. Feel free to contact Andy Hunt at NICWA at 503-222-4044 for additional assistance in developing strategies to develop relationships with the AI/AN communities in your area.